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Mart cheer, complete with a "squiggly" in the middle accompanied by wiggling hips. Sherry Sladek, Jody Cervenka and Janice Meyer have worked at the Taylor Wal-Mart store since it opened Oct. 31, 1979. They were joined as cheerleaders by 20-year associates Betty Stried and Martha Alderete.

The new supercenter is more than twice as large as the old Wal-Mart store.

McCarthy said while 135 people worked at the old store the supercenter employs 322.

That fact was mentioned as a big plus by city officials Mayor Don Hill and Chamber President Shanta Kuhl. They also mentioned the potential for more sales tax revenue generated by the larger store as reasons for the city to celebrate.

As they spoke an unusual smell — at least for Taylor's Wal-Mart — wafted over the crowd. It was the smell of fried chicken coming from a deli. The new store offers groceries, one of several areas added with the new building.

That's good news for Frankie and Linda Trlica of Taylor and their son, Brad. They were among the first customers checking out Tuesday morning.

Linda Trlica said her family shops at Wal-Mart because of its prices but also to see "friendly faces." Her daughter and niece are among the associates employed at the store.

As Stephanie Pokorny, Trlica's niece, checked out her aunt and uncle Linda Trlica said the new store is "real nice."

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